

Campbell House
Fifteenth and Locust Sts.
St. Louis, Mo.

HABS No. MO-12

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of St. Louis

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT - ST. LOUIS

MULTIPLE
ADDENDUMS
FOLLOW

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene L. Pleitsch, District Officer
1592 Arcade Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

CAMPBELL HOUSE

Fifteenth & Locust Sts., St. Louis, Mo.

Physical and Historical Data

In May 1851 the Lucas heirs sold to John H. Hall 50 feet of ground on the south line of the Place, beginning at a point 54 feet west of the intersection of Fifteenth Street and Lucas Place--the consideration in that sale being \$5,000. Evidently Hall immediately proceeded to erect a house on the $37\frac{1}{2}$ foot east portion of his lot, because the St. Louis Directory for 1852 lists his home address as the "south side of Lucas Place, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth", the houses at that time not having been numbered in this new section.

Later Hall sold his remaining $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet of ground to the west of his house to Henry Ames who built the home adjoining the Hall-Campbell house.

On April 1, 1853 Hall sold the $37\frac{1}{2}$ feet of ground, with improvements thereon, to the Trustees of Cornelia V. Wilson's Estate for \$5,000--not a profitable sale for Hall, but he was evidently hard-pressed for cash as the Recorder's Office reveals that in 1853 he was speculating rather largely in Lucas Place lots, and in lots along Olive Street, just south of the Campbell house.

In November 1854 the Trustees of Cornelia Wilson's Estate made a neat profit by selling the house and $37\frac{1}{2}$ foot lot for \$7,000 to Robert Campbell. In January 1856 Campbell purchased the corner lot, with 54 feet frontage, for \$8,100 from the Lucas heirs.

The house is set back 25 feet from the sidewalk, as required in the restrictions which the Lucas family applied to all the lots in this area, and the total depth of the lot is 155 feet.

The Campbells enlarged the house at the rear, building a large recreation room beyond the kitchen and extending it to the alley. Above this recreation room, or family sitting room, there were several bedrooms.

At the rear of the 54 foot lot they erected a two-story carriage house of brick, which has its doorway on Fifteenth Street.

The house was numbered "20 Lucas Place" in the Directories between the years 1859 and 1867, but with the new system of house numbering which was put in effect in 1867, it became "1506 Lucas Place" and still later "1506 Locust Street" when Lucas Place was finally abandoned.

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The Campbell home is of brick construction, narrow in front, with a hall on the west side and rooms opening off the hall to the east. The exterior is plain, having a simple doorway at the front approached by a short flight of stone steps, with hand-railing of cast iron. A narrow balcony with cast iron railing extends across the two parlor windows at the front of the house.

On the east elevation there is a bay window in the center of the parlor; and a smaller bay window opens off the east wall of the dining room.

The yard is fenced, the 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ foot frontage on Locust Street having an ornamental cast iron railing set on a stone curb, while the Fifteenth Street side has a board fence on a stone curb.

The interior woodwork of the house is simple in design, but the double-parlor has a heavy plaster cornice around the four sides, breaking around the two marble mantels set on the east wall with the bay window between.

Robert and Virginia Kyle Campbell were the parents of thirteen children, but only three sons were surviving when their father died in 1879.

It was during the late 1860's and the 1870's that most of the elaborate entertainments associated with this house were given. During that period President Grant and Mrs. Grant were guests of honor at elaborate dinners and receptions whenever they re-visited St. Louis, their former home. Other notables entertained there were Captain James B. Eads and wife; Hon. Henry T. Blow, Minister to Brazil during the Grant Administration, and Father de Smet, famous missionary to the Indians of the Rocky Mountain region.

Robert Campbell helped, probably more than any other man, in the outfitting of American troops for the War with Mexico in 1846-7. He also raised a large fund for the famine in Ireland in 1863.

Source of Information: J. Thomas Scharf, A History of St. Louis City and County (Philadelphia, 1883), pp. 369-72. Various St. Louis newspapers between 1860 and 1881--the latter year being the date of Mrs. Campbell's death.

Prepared by John A. Bryan. June 6, 1941

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Research Associate in American Architecture

An addendum to:
Robert Campbell House
1508 Locust Street
St. Louis City
Missouri

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240